



# The eNewsletter

April 30, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## *From the Pen of the Church Administrator...*

### *Looking Ahead...*

- May 1**  
Taters & Tubesteaks
- May 2**  
Ladies' Tea
- May 3**  
Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Donaldson Bridal Shower  
General Assembly Prayer  
Service  
No HS SNL
- May 5**  
Mothers' Encouragement  
Group  
WM Council
- May 6**  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Wednesday Night Activities
- May 7**  
Ladies' Bible Study
- May 10**  
Mother's Day  
Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
No HS SNL
- May 11**  
Ladies' Evening Bible Study
- May 12**  
Ladies' Hebrews Bible Study
- May 13**  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Youth Parent Meeting  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Last Wednesday Night  
Activities
- May 14**  
Ladies' Bible Study
- May 16**  
Men's Breakfast
- May 17**  
Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Stevenson Bridal Showers  
HS SNL
- May 19**  
Mothers' Encouragement  
Group

Dear CPC Church Family,

I will be "retiring" from work/ministry at CPC on June 30.

A couple of months before Patty went to heaven, Pastor Caines came to me and said he would totally understand if I wanted to start attending church with one of our daughters after Patty went to heaven. I responded, "Thank you, but that isn't on my radar. CPC is our home church - our church family. I don't know what the future holds, but at least for the foreseeable future, I don't see leaving CPC." That conversation was a year and a half ago. For the first several months, my thoughts about that did not change. But over the last few months, my desire to worship on Sundays with my family has grown. After much thought, counsel, and prayer, I have decided to start worshipping with our daughter, Becca, and her family at Hixson Presbyterian Church, probably starting in August.

When I asked to meet with Render a few weeks ago, he told me he was guessing I was going to tell him I was ready to move to Virginia to live with our daughter, Anna, and her family. I told him no, but he was close. Early in July, after I retire from CPC, I plan to head to Virginia to visit Anna and family for a few weeks. Anna is planning on having me help her with science and Bible classes for her two boys. We'll visit some museums and do some nature trail hiking and then help the boys with reports on those adventures.

Considering "leaving" CPC for worship and work has been a hard decision. I'm not retiring from ministry, I'm changing my ministry focus to assist my daughters. After returning from Virginia in August, I hope to find a part-time job that will provide some income but still allow me time to help Becca with some of the homeschooling classes for her four children this fall.

My family and friends have prayed about the timing of all of this; there is no "good" time to leave CPC. If we wait until we have a new pastor, it could appear to be about him. It's not about anything other than my family and me believing it's the best time for me to focus more on being a part-time homeschooling grandfather, and how that will best work out.

It has been my joy and privilege to serve the Lord by serving the staff, leaders, and congregation of CPC as the Administrator and Christian Education Director for the last 20 years. Leaving will not be easy, and yet it is not a final decision either. The Session has granted me an extended sabbatical. I'm not transferring my church membership anywhere at this time. Six months or a year from now I don't know how I'll feel about worshipping somewhere other than CPC. I confess, I do struggle with some anxiety when I don't have clear plans for the future. Apart from helping our girls with homeschooling their kids, I don't really have long-term plans, but I also have peace that this is from the Lord. I'm trying to trust Him one day at a time!

God has been so gracious to Patty and me through your ministry to us and our family. There is no way to sufficiently thank all of you for the love and support you showed Patty and me during her nine year battle with cancer. You have also wonderfully supported Patty and me for 27 years. Our daughters grew up here. You have allowed me to serve here as an elder and on staff these many years. This is still our home. I'm not sure how long I'll be away after August, but my love for you all will not go away - ever. God is good - all the time!

~Mark Wilson



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule May 3

#### Worship

##### Infants

Jeanie Ray  
& Reita Pierce

##### Creepers

Lyndsey, Ellie,  
& Daisy Bowman

##### Toddlers

Jason & Bret Bowman

##### Floater

Luke Bowman

### Sunday School

##### Infants

Jared & Sarah McCurry

##### Creepers

Amy Maclellan  
& Cayce Weekley

##### Toddlers

Tammy & William Higgins

### May Coordinator:

Rebekah Gernhard

### BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Jessica Donaldson, bride-elect of John Winter and daughter of Mark and Cindy Donaldson, is on Sunday, May 3, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Jessica is registered at Belk, Target, and Kohl's.

### STEPS2HOPE

Steps2Hope, a local non-profit that built a house for Andrew and Tori Smith, is making plans to build another house for a wounded veteran from April 30-May 8. They are recruiting volunteers to help with construction, registration, and feeding the "troops". If you would like to join them in providing a fully accessible home for Sgt. Jason Smith and his family, please sign up on their website at [www.steps2hope.com](http://www.steps2hope.com). For more information, please contact Mark and Beth Griggs at [bwgriggs@comcast.net](mailto:bwgriggs@comcast.net). Hope you can join us on "Jason's New Journey"!

### TATERS AND TUBESTEAKS

Join us tomorrow for a night out with the family. The hot dog dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. in Coolidge Park. Stay for the Lookouts game at AT&T Park at 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family - the best entertainment value in town! Please sign up at the Welcome Center bulletin or contact the church office.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRAYER

Join us for a time of preparation and prayer for the upcoming General Assembly in Chattanooga. This special service is on Sunday, May 3, at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Choirs from both CPC and First Presbyterian are participating. Nursery is provided for birth to 3 years of age.

### COMPASSION SUNDAY

Our church is participating in Compassion Sunday on May 10 before, during, and after Morning Worship. This is part of a national event that helps us grow in our understanding of God's very special love for the poor. It's also an opportunity for each of us to intervene in the life of at least one child in poverty. Please begin praying now about sponsoring one or more of these children in need. Sponsorship packets will be available for you on this special Sunday. For more information, please contact Bev Fowler at [bbfowler@joimail.com](mailto:bbfowler@joimail.com) or stop by the table in the lobby.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEED

Do you enjoy working with children? If so, we need you! Prior teaching experience is not necessary. Beginning May 31, teachers and helpers are needed in the 2 year old and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classes. Wednesday nights, Covenant Corps teachers and helpers are needed in the 3 and 4 year old classes. If you are interested in helping in any of these classes, please contact Holly Lehmann by email at [hlehmann@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:hlehmann@covenantchattanooga.org).

### BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The May birthday and anniversary calendar is available for you at the Welcome Center.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

#### Mark Wilson

Personal Email.....[mark.wilson8451@gmail.com](mailto:mark.wilson8451@gmail.com)

### MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is coming up June 22-26. This year, we are learning about the story of David and Goliath through the musical, *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*. Registration is \$25 per child, and is available for rising Kindergartners-6<sup>th</sup> Graders. Online registration forms are available at [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org). Forms are also available at the Welcome Center. For more information, please contact Jeremy Gaines.

### FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

We hope you might be able to help us raise funds for the American Cancer Society to raise awareness and fight back against this disease. You can make a donation to our team or join our team by going to the ACS event website, [www.relay.acsevents.org](http://www.relay.acsevents.org), select "Find a Team" and type our team's name, Covenant Pres Church. You can make a tax deductible donation on behalf of our team and/or sign-up to walk with us for a while at Coolidge Park on May 30. Please contact Mark Wilson at [mwilson@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:mwilson@covenantchattanooga.org) or 423.899.5377, for more information.

### CHATTANOOGA FURNITURE BANK

The Chattanooga Furniture Bank is a ministry that tries to provide low income and formerly homeless people with furniture. They are always looking for furniture donations. They are located downtown on East Main Street, and they will arrange to pick up furniture if you call them at 423.757.9527.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

*Elizabeth Beatty*  
&  
*Jesse Estes*

Invite you to celebrate with them  
as they join in marriage,  
Saturday, May 30, 2015, 6:30 pm  
Hidden Hollow Resort  
Chickamauga, Ga  
Please RSVP to  
[esteswedding15@yahoo.com](mailto:esteswedding15@yahoo.com) by May 10  
RECEPTION AND H'ORDERVES TO FOLLOW  
CASUAL DRESS